

**MARYLAND GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (GOCI)
MARYLAND COMMISSION ON INDIAN AFFAIRS (MCIA)**

MINUTES OF JUNE MEETING: June 2, 2008

**Waldorf United Methodist Church
2900 Smallwood Drive West
Waldorf, Maryland 20603
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.**

ATTENDANCE

Commissioners Present

Vice-Chair Thomas Windsor, II
Cornelius Red Deer Allen
Virginia Busby
Kathryn E. Robbins Fitzhugh
David Holland
Wanda Y. Lee
Guy Wells

Commissioners Absent

Chairwoman Auriel Fenwick

Audience Present

Mary Hope Billings
Chief Sewell Fitzhugh
Bob Gajdys
Beverly Littlehawk
Gina Hamlin
Rico Newman
Carol Ebright

MCIA Staff

E. Keith Colston

COMMENCEMENT

CALL TO ORDER/WELCOME: COMMISSIONER/VICE-CHAIRMAN THOMAS WINDSOR-- commenced meeting at 7:10 p.m.

INVOCATION: Mary Hope Billings

READING/CORRECTION/APPROVAL OF MINUTES: COMMISSIONER GUY WELLS read minutes from May 5, 2008 meeting.

***MOTION TO ACCEPT MAY'S MEETING MINUTES:* COMMISSIONER DAVID HOLLAND**

***SECONDED MOTION TO ACCEPT MAY'S MEETING MINUTES:* COMMISSIONER KATHRYN FITZHUGH**

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS/WELCOME: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

MOTION TO ACCEPT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: All commissioners

SECONDED MOTION TO ACCEPT DIRECTOR'S REPORT: All commissioners

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON'S COMMENTS: Let's remember our Lumbee intern; she was stabbed recently. She will be in the hospital for at least two weeks and recuperating at home for at least two more weeks. Since education was the issue she had begun working on before this terrible incident she will resume when she is well.

UNFINISHED OLD BUSINESS

REPATRIATION PROCESS: COMMISSIONER/REPATRIATION COMMITTEE CHAIR VIRGINIA BUSBY reported that the Repatriation Committee is still looking for a 5th member, but advisors are being solicited and in two (2) weeks or so a teleconference will be utilized to select the 5th member. Rest of process is complete. Bob Gajdys is really concerned with the postponement, because these delays are not typical for Native parties. Professional and sympathetic archeologist has not been found **VICE CHAIR/COMMISSIONER THOMAS WINDSOR** proclaimed.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Rico Newman said "we have been down this road before" meaning he and two other Natives worked hard on the previous committee. Rich Hughes was a good member; however, everything changed anyway. Maryland Historical Trust went forth. Our desires will get changed probably. He was adamant that we need a case lawyer to protect our concerns, because NAGPRA is going to be changed. Due to the fact that the Maryland Indian tribes are State recognized, not federally recognized a knowledgeable consultant is required. The federal regulations will be changed again. Churches and others keep building on Native remains in this state and reburying these people in convenient sites. When the remains are identified as Native American no one is apprised. Other states have better laws. **COMMISSIONER BUSBY** agreed. Possibly a law school professor or law student with a specialty in Indian law can be brought on. Bob Gajdys mentioned Dr. McKeon involvement with unrecognized tribes and NAGRA and could advise if he would. When the change goes to NAGRA it goes to him and he writes what the secretary stipulates. Remains have been found on the Eastern Shore Chief Sewell added in which case funeral objects were sold to a casino for thousands. Oklahoma tribes said they would help other tribes by taking remains and later granting them back to eastern tribes for reburial. The federally recognized tribes in New Jersey are closer to satisfactory laws. "We need to get this done while O'Malley is in office." **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR COLSTON** said GOCI attorneys can be brought in for preliminary advisement, but not attached to our committee; "can we invite them to our meetings." **DIRECTOR COLSTON** answered yes. Falmouth Institute can help as well. Deanna Beacham is a source who can help local counsel.

ESTABLISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE: **COMMISSIONER/VICE CHAIR THOMAS WINDSOR** expressed a need to establish an advisory committee to help with the standing committees including education, economics, tribal recognition and health care.

BOB GAJDYS: Jefferson Patterson Park video was reshown. Three (3) views from American Indians shown. Can still request a reshown.

LONGEST WALK II: **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON** noted Rico Newman and Miles received information. Permits are not finalized. Waiting to hear the route, needs, etc. Northern Director wants park to allow primitive camping. The park service so far will not grant this which includes open fires. Planners do not want to stay at Chief Billy Tayac's farm, because there could be as many as 8,000 campers needing accommodation. Waldorf is not a location they are in agreement with either.

COMMISSIONER/ EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR CORNELIUS RED DEER: Waiting to hear from Maryland State School Superintendent, Nancy Grasmick. National Geographic representative will attend next meeting to describe their video.

RICO NEWMAN: Montgomery County changed their curriculum. NMAI is not in agreement yet to assist in curriculum writing. NMAI is allowing Prince George's and other systems to use their resources.

PRISON SWEAT LODGE CEREMONIES: **COMMISSIONER GUY WELLS:** William Miles helped gather stones for the sweat lodge, so preparations are just about complete.

CHIEF WINTER HAWK FITZHUGH: Sultana, Inc. contacts the tribes and MCIA while planning events. We need to check with various tribes for consultants. The Episcopal Church needs to do the same. They are having a reenactment, August 7-8, 2008 involving camping on an old Indian village. Individuals should not be consulted, but appropriate tribes, MCIA and others should.

COMMISSIONER/VICE-CHAIR THOMAS WINDSOR: Let's invite MD state delegates to Commission meetings; possibly e-mailing monthly minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

NEW INDIAN DAY HOLIDAY: **BOB GAJDYS:** Are there any plans for the new Indian Day holiday? What is the process? **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KEITH COLSTON** announced MCIA will meet with the Governor at the mansion again. MOTA money in Montgomery County could be utilized to sponsor activities for this event.

MOTA/HOLY CROSS HOSPITAL HEALTH FAIR: On June 28, 2008 this hospital is the site of another health fair co-sponsored with MOTA. There is \$20-30,000 set aside for American Indian fairs such as this. Volunteer committees for set-up/take-down, and traditional dancing and singing are needed. Commissioner Windsor stated that last year it was informative; please attend this year and tell others to.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHALLOP REENACTMENT: CHIEF WINTER HAWK FITZHUGH: Shallop will dock in Vienna, Maryland, during our American Indian Festival and Pow-Wow, September 13 -14, 2008. Trying to get their stay extended, but funding staff pay is a problem. We are attempting to distribute information to local schools.

JOANNE SHENANDOAH CONCERT: BOB GAJDYS announced Iroquois singer has agreed to perform at a black tie venue in Calvert County.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: COMMISSIONER KATHRYN FITZHUGH

SECONDED MOTION TO ADJOURN MEETING: COMMISSIONER DAVID HOLLAND

COMMISSIONER/VICE-CHAIRMAN THOMAS WINDSOR ADJOURNED MEETING:
8:35 p.m.

Submitted By: Wanda Y. Lee, Commissioner
06/20/08